**AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOCIAL OPPRESSION: A BATTLE WORTH FIGHTING.**

The day was May 25th, 2020, the location was Minneapolis, Minnesota, US. On this fateful day, something very tragic happened, that changed the view of Racial oppression, not only in the US but across the whole world. Mr. George Floyd was arrested for allegedly making a purchase using a counterfeit $20 bill. But instead of being processed at the nearest precinct, as is normally done, Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Mr. Floyd’s neck for over nine minutes, which later resulted in his death. This is just but an example of what African Americans go through for being “different”.

Social oppression is defined as the unjust treatment of a specific set of people, by exercising power over another group using their dominance. This can be best described through racial discrimination, racial profiling, police brutality, etc. The African American race has faced oppression from the “white man” since the slave trade was introduced in the United States in 1776. Oppression was practiced since the African race was deemed as slaves and not fellow human beings. Decades later after the abolishment of the slave trade and still the same oppression has been established, making no room for improvement.

Studies have shown that 65% of black Americans believe that the increased national attention on racial inequality has not led to any change. This is the case of “all talk but no action”. Racial inequality is just but one of the many issues affecting the black nation. It is described as the unequal distribution of resources, power, and opportunities leading to Economic growth across a race in society. Practical examples of this include; Difficulty for the African American man to receive employment just like any other “white man” living in America, the ability to attain affordable housing in safe regions of the country, etc. Sadly, racial inequality is experienced more in African American Society than even the Native American or Hispanic families just because of the color of their skin.

Another social issue affecting the African American race is the issue of police brutality. This is described as the excessive use of force by law enforcement against an individual or a group. While police brutality is experienced all around the globe, more attention is given to the US, especially against Black Americans. The main cause of police brutality against the Black community is because some part of law enforcement exercises their power in the wrong way, thus leading to unnecessary deaths across a specific type of race. While the US government claims to handle investigations and penalize the guilty parties, justice is hardly served when it comes to cases concerning the Black community. Police brutality against Black Americans is also brought about due to racial profiling. This is described as the act of suspecting or discriminating against a crime a specific set of people due to their religion, ethnicity, etc. A hard example of Racial profiling is the story of John Crawford III from Dayton, Ohio. Dispatch received a distress call that a Black American man was seen waving a rifle gun and pointing it at people, which was not the case as seen in the CCTV footage. Without a chance to surrender, shots were fired at the 22-year-old male, killing him on the spot. It was later found out that the young man owned a BB Rifle gun found on the Walmart shelf. His death was purely unnecessary since he was not a threat to anyone. This is just one of the many examples of police brutality as a result of racial profiling.

Economic inequality is described as differences among individual incomes and wealth in a society. This has been grouped as one of the many social issues affecting the African -American Community. A study shows that an average African American man earns slightly less than half of what a White American earns. Social capital, in this case, is one of the main causes of economic inequality between Black Americans and White Americans. It is explained that people with powerful social connections can acquire economic resources and opportunities. The black community has had little to no chances of establishing rich social connections and thus is stuck on the same economic gap compared to the white American, whose connection was established way before he/she was even born. Access to quality education has also been a problem when it comes to Economic inequality. White Americans have had access to quality education, from elementary school to high school, and later to an Ivy League school, assuring them quality employment in the long run, which is the opposite of what the average Black American will go through his lifetime. Even if he/she affords to go through the same as the white American, which will require a lot of effort, he/she is still not sure of an employment opportunity, which in turn, will lead to crime.

Another form of oppression against the African American Race is through the justice system. After a wrongful arrest, comes a wrongful conviction by the courts of the United States. Statistics show that black Americans are incarcerated at nearly five times the rate of white Americans. These numbers have nothing to do with the fact that crime rates are going up in black neighborhoods, but with the fact that most of those incarcerations are wrongful convictions. After serving a wrongful sentence it becomes hard for the individual to be able to acquire employment or even return his /her life to what it was before. This issue is seriously affecting the African American community, which calls for change.

By discussing all of these issues, remedies have also been provided to reduce the intensity of oppression in African American society. Below are some policies that will help in curbing racism against the black community.

Study shows that support for black businesses can go a long way into helping reduce social oppression towards Black Americans in society. The African American individual has taken the initiative to open up a business in the neighborhood for his/her survival. By procuring goods and services from the business, provision of employment will also be established, other than promoting the business itself. Closure of the racial wealth gap is also a positive step towards ending social oppression towards the black community. This comes as a result that black businesses were never deeply rooted in the Economic regime and narrowing the racial economic gap will help a lot. Also, most banks hinder Black American Proprietors from acquiring small business loans but investing in black businesses could help in strengthening local economies.

The presence of African American individuals in the political scene could go a long way to help curb social oppression for Black Americans. Most politically inclined black folks, go into politics with the view that they will win, but to their disappointment, they end up losing due to low African American voter turnout. By being able to support black politicians into assuming leadership, policies will be implemented in their favor, lowering oppression of racial discrimination in the United States. As seen in both the past and the present, black leadership has not only had a positive impact on the African American community but on the United States in general.

Fair treatment of African American society, particularly in the criminal justice system, is listed as one of the many policies that deal with the social issue of African American society. The ability of the black American man to receive a fair trial and rightful conviction will help in reducing the number of wrongful incarcerations in the US, thus reducing the population in prisons.

Decades later, most black Americans are pained by what their forefathers went through in terms of slavery. Therefore, there have been talks on reparations due to slavery. This is described as providing financial assistance to descendants whose forefathers faced the brutality of slavery. This could help the families heal from the dreadful act and also claim all that was earned when their forefathers were alive.

Social oppression in African American society has been an unending talk since the abolishment of slavery. Centuries later, the fight continues and it is not near being won. It is time for the masses to wake up and implement the policies provided above, for a greater tomorrow.